Dear Larry, 8/2/72

Tonight's CBS net TV news had an item from Atlanta saying the mayor had asked local radio and TV stations not to carry J.B.Stoner's adds because of their content. Stoner must love that! I know him fairly well from my own work and meeting him and better through Jerry, with whom I've spent many hours driving and talking. Jerry was long his handy-man and remains with a kind of attachment. They also lived together.

That this came to pass is not an accident as much as it is a stupidity. Stoner knows how to provoke and is deliberate in it. What interests me, however, is the reference to his TV ads this far in advance of election. And to that I add that to my knowledge he has been advertising on radio for not less than nine months already. I have no prior knowledge of the more costly TV ads.

What we are talking about is money. Not necessarily great sums, but more than before for this minuscule party of his. Much more. Let me add to what for that party is considerable advertising expenditure a few other things:

Stoner gets little or nothing for his slight law practise. In the Ray cases-he also put John away-he got not a cent, so he is out his costs, including travelling. When he travelled with Jerry, which he did on these cases and in campaigning, he also paid Jerry's expenses. In addition, slight as it is, he kept Jerry, in his Savannah apartment or in his Savannah Beach property. That is a resort where he has quarters.

He just got a new car when Jerry left. It may have been given to him or sold cheaply because he went I think to Ohio to get it.

The party just built and furnished or bought and furnished new headquarters at ~~Columbusxxx~~ Marietta.

They do have a staff, small as it may be, and he is not the only paid functionary.

While with any comparison that can be made the sums must be minuscule, the sums would seem to be greater by far than this party ever had available. He is not advertising in Atlanta alone, I presume. And he has been in competition for the Wallace buck. Perhaps some Wallace money has been flowing to him thanks to Brener, but that can account for the newly-reported TV only. The rest preceeded the shooting.

I have several things in mind, none, please, involving Bud, who gets paranoid about such things, blows almost anything like this, and ought not ~~xxxxxxx~~have any connection with any inquiry ~~xxxx~~ into Stoner, no matter how indirect, because the continuing Ray family attachment to the insane fascist (they look at him differently).

The law requires recording of expenses and income over, I think $100. Some filing has had to be made. I don't know if there is applicable state law. If there may be, do you know an Atlanta reporter like the one in Vancouver? Could you get Bob to get you a copy of what has been filed in Washington? I hesitate to call him because he may have felt some flak. He hasn't returned my last two calls. I'd like to go over all such records.

Because this newfound wealth follows his over connection with Ray.

And he has exerted undue influence, has suppressed leads, I suspect because they lead to his friends if not contributors or he fears it, and continued meddling into the case after his official separation from it.

I have no literary interest in this. But I do think it should be done and, perhaps, reported. That stuff is all computerized now and a printout is simple and can't cost much. But, I can't pay for anything. It is possible that one innocent death, of a wealthy racist, can explain all of it. But I'd like to know. And if there is no legitimate reporting, the Atlanta reporter would have a story that could lead to a conviction. Richly deserved. The law does require reporting of income and expenses.

He loves interviews, by the way, and the awful stuff he spouts, he really believes. At the same time, he is by no means stupid. Lazy, yeh. Could he be good copy in Chicago?

One of the not impossibles is rembering in the Leander Perez. Sr., willx.~~xxxxxx~~ would require Louisiana checking, possibly in Plaquemines Parish (below New Orleans) where, as of my last knowledge, his son was D.A.I doubt it was filed in N.O., where two sons practise. That family and cronies accounted for better than 10% of Wallace's last filing.

Best,